

Characterization

Review **Characters** are the people or animals that take part in a story. Readers learn about characters through **characterization**—the details that create a character, such as what the character says and does. Most characterization is indirect. In this case, readers make **inferences**, or logical assumptions, about the character. The four main ways writers develop characters are listed in the box.

A. Directions: Read each numbered passage about Helen Keller. **Decide** which method of characterization creates Helen's character. **Write** the letter, or letters, of the method(s) on the line. HINT: Clues are underlined for you.)

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| a. direct comment | c. actions, speech, and inner thoughts |
| b. physical description (looks) | d. what others say or think |

- _____ 1. During the second winter of her life, Helen became so sick that her doctor did not expect her to live. When she did survive, it did not take long for her parents to realize that Helen could no longer see or hear.
- _____ 2. Helen's mother began to scream. "Helen's blind! She can't see. My baby's blind!"
- _____ 3. Helen often refused to let anyone comb her hair or straighten her clothes. So, for much of the time, she looked messy and unkempt.
- _____ 4. Helen did not like strangers, but she was curious about them. So now she came back. She patted her hand across Annie's face and down over her dust traveling clothes.
- _____ 5. What was the stranger doing? Was there any sausage left on her plate? Finally Helen got up to find out. She sniffed—and yes. There was some sausage left. Helen grabbed it.

B. Directions: Write a character trait, a quality of Helen's personality, on each line.

6. One day, Helen found her new baby sister in Helen's doll cradle. This was too much! She reached out and knocked the cradle over. _____
7. At dinner, Helen never stayed in her own seat. She wandered place to place, grabbing food from others' plates and stuffing it into her mouth.
- _____